GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1360
ANSWERED ON:27.11.2000
PROVISION OF WLL TECHNOLOGY IN RURAL AREAS
UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria laid down for providing wireless in local loop (WLL) technology in rural areas;

(b) the number of telephones based on said technology functioning in the country, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government have a plan to provide two lakhs said telephones by the years 2002 in rural areas;

(d) if so, the details thereof including the estimated cost of the plan;

(e) whether this technology is likely to improve the condition of the traditional telephone exchanges in the rural areas;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) whether the Government have invited tenders for the purpose (h) if so, the details thereof; (i) whether the Government propose to introduce cellular telephone through use of WLL technology in the rural areas; and (j) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR)

(a) WLL systems have been planned to be provided in those Secondary Switching Areas(SSAs) having large number of villages without telephone facility;

(b) 187 telephones are working on WLL technology in the country as on date. State-wise details are as under:

Himachal Pradesh 112

Uttar Pradesh (East) 75

(c) & (d): Yes Sir. The Government have planned to install 2 lakh lines of WLL systems to provide VPTs and to meet scattered demand of DELs in rural areas.The system will cover 60 SSAs and 400 SDCAs of the country.The estimated cost of the system is around Rs.700 crores.

(e) & (f): Being wireless, this technology is going to provide more reliable connectivity in the rural areas;

(g) & (h): Tenders were invited for procurement of 6 lakh lines of WLL systems. Bids have been opened and evaluation of bids has been completed. Advance purchase orders for procurement of 2 lakh lines of WLL equipment are going to be issued to three companies shortly.

(i) No Sir.

(j) Does not arise in view of above.